TAKING INVENTORY

"What we need to know about how the world works"

2 Chronicles 15:3-6

INTRODUCTION:

1. OUR COUNTRY/WORLD IS IN A MESS
    a) Economic mess
    b) Social mess
    c) Political mess (Democrats vs Republicans)
    d) Racial mess (Racism – whites vs blacks)
    e) Classism (Rich vs Poor)

2. **2 Chronicles 15:3-6**

I. THIS WAS A TIME OF <u>CONFLICT</u>

- **Vs 5**
    a) "***In those times there was no peace"***
        1) The opposite of peace is conflict!!

- Three Areas of Conflict.

A. <u>PERSONAL</u> CONFLICT

1. **Vs 5**
    a) "***In those times <u>there was no peace to him</u> who went out or to him who came in."***

2. "***there was no peace to him***"
    a) "***him***" – that means they were living in personal conflict.

B. <u>FAMILY</u> INSTABILITY

1. **Vs 5**
    a) "***no peace to him who went out or to him who came in"***

2. Not only was there personal conflict, but there was familial conflict.
    a) Conflict between husbands and wives.
    b) Conflict with kids.
    c) Family Rebellion and disfunction in the home.

3. When you look @ teenage rebellion marital conflict, it is clear that there is NO PEACE.

C. <u>COMMUNITY</u> CONFLICT

1. **Vs 5**

a) "***for great disturbances afflicted all the inhabitants of the lands.***

1) City, county, and state levels.

2) Political, Racial, Class, and Gender divides.

2. **FACT IS**: Our communities are divided.

3. **Vs 6a**

a) "***They were broken in pieces***"

D. <u>INTERNATIONAL</u> CONFLICT

1. **Vs 6**

a) "***Nation was crushed by nation and city by city"***

2. **VERY IMPORTANT**: That's a description of international Chaos, confusion and instability.

a) WOW…that's our world today.

3. So whether it's Individual chaos, Familial, Community, or International, everybody was in trouble.

a) ***Vs 5-6a***

II. WHERE THE CONFLICT <u>ORIGINATES</u>

1. **Vs 6b**

a) "***for God troubled them with every sort of distress***"

2. **Maybe it's just me!!!** But I would have thought this was the devil's doing. It would sound better – "***for the devil troubled them with every sort of distress"***

3. But the Word says, "***for God troubled them with every sort of distress***"

4. **God says see all this trouble???** Blame me!!

III. WHEN GOD IS YOUR <u>PROBLEM</u>

- **Vs 6**
- **WOW!!!!** If God is your problem…..It doesn't matter who we elect as president.
- If God is your problem, then only God is your solution.

A. THE <u>ACTIVE</u> WRATH OF GOD

1. When God was not happy in the Old Testament there would be the active wrath of God.

a) ***Genesis 6:5, 7***

1) That's the ACTIVE WRATH OF GOD

b) ***Genesis 19:23-26***

1) The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

c) ***Genesis 14:26-31***

1) The destruction of Pharoah's army

2. These are examples of the Active wrath of God.

B. THE <u>PASSIVE</u> WRATH OF GOD

1. ***2 Corinthians 5:16-21***

2. ***Roman's 1:18-28***

a) **Vs 28 KJV**

1) **Reprobate** – means to be seared in a furnace

b) "***God gave them over"***

3. God said, "***You don't want me?" "I'll turn you over to a life without me***,"

IV. THE <u>CAUSE</u> OF THE CRISIS

- **Vs 6**
  - "***For God troubled them with every sort of distress***"

- **VERY IMPORTANT** – If God is the cause or basis of the Crisis.
  - The Reason's that led to the crisis?

A. REASON #1 for the Chaos was Vs 3

1. **Vs 3**

a) "***For a <u>long time</u>, Israel was without the true God***"

1) **WHICH MEANS** – The True God was missing!!

2. **WOW!!!** So instead of having the True God, they had a "**False god"**

3. **An idol is a Noun:** A person, place, thing or thought, that you look to as your source of significance.

B. REASON #2

1. **Vs 3**

a) "***and without a teaching priest***"

2. He didn't say there was no priest!!

a) He said there was no TEACHING PRIEST.

3. We must have a radical return to the authority of Scripture!! AMEN

4. **ALL OF OUR DECISIONS MUST BE MADE ACCORDING TO THE BOOK**
   a) **THEREFORE** – A mist in the pulpit is a fog in the pew!! WOW!!!

5. **VERY IMPORTANT**: The BOOK is the basis of all decision making!!!
   a) **WHEN THE PULPIT COMPROMISES THE WORD OF GOD = CHAOS**

6. **WHEN YOU LOOK @ THIS COUNTRY**
   a) We are in **BIG TROUBLE**

   b) Everything we see in the **PHYSICAL IS INFLUENCED BY SOMETHING IN THE SPIRITUAL**.

   c) **HUGE** – *When there is no DIVINE STANDARD the people DEFINE their OWN STANDARD.*

7. ***2 Chronicles 15:3***
   a) "***and without the Law***"

8. **Vs 5**

9. God says if you want to blame someone – "***Blame Me!!!!!!***" **Vs 6**

V. THE CURE FOR THE CRISIS

1. The solution to the Crisis. ***2 Chronicles 15:4 KJV***
   a) "***But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them***"

   b) "***But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel***"
      1) Vs 6
      2) But their return was to the "LORD God"

   c) "**God"** – Elohim refers to power Genesis 1, Creation.
      1) In ***Genesis 2:4*** God added a name LORD (JEHOVAH – relationship)

2. ***You won't find God if all your looking for is His power***.
   a) **HOWEVER** – you will find God and His power when you are looking for a relationship.